ME 1884 c.2

# INSTRUCTION MANUAL

***Sensitive Research****

LABORATORY STANDARD

DIRECT CURRENT AMMETER

MODEL B

70-05-29-42

MSFN
REFERENCE COPY
RETURN TO MSFN LIBRARY
GODD RD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

**SINGER**
INSTRUMENTATION

*Precision electrical and electronic instruments for measurement*

emc — EMPIRE* — Gertsch* — Panoramic* — Sensitive Research*

THE SINGER COMPANY • METRICS DIVISION

* *A Trademark of THE SINGER COMPANY

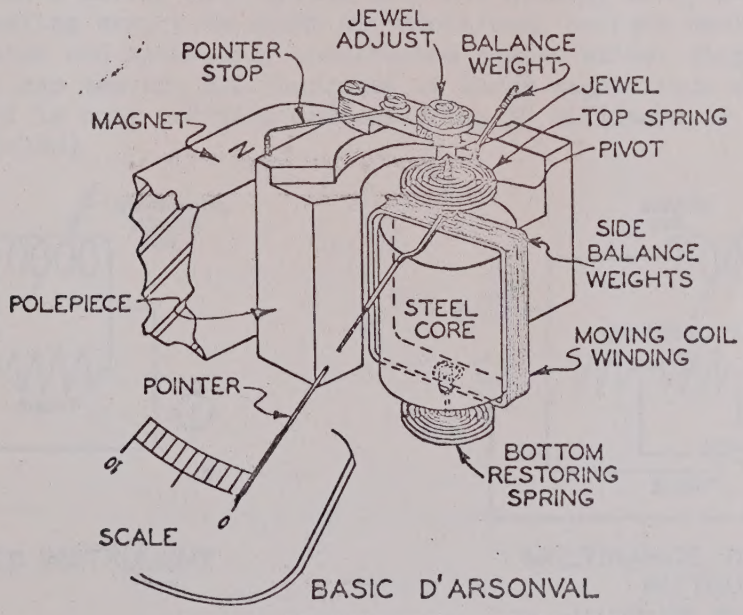
# ELECTRICAL MEASURING INSTRUMENTS

## D. C. CURRENT MEASUREMENTS

Almost all electrical measurements involve the detection or measurement of an electric current. An electric current can be measured by means of one or more of its physical effects;

1. Heating Effect
2. Chemical Effect
3. Magnetic Effect

Using the magnetic effect caused by a current flow, we can devise an accurate means of measurement. The oldest design of such a device is known as the D'Arsonval Moving Coil System. An elementary sketch of which is shown below.




BASIC D'ARSONVAL MOVING COIL ASSEMBLY

Its operation depends on the force exerted on a current carrying conductor shaped in a coil which is capable of rotation in the field of a permanent magnet.

When a D.C. current flows through this rotatable coil, it creates a field which interacts with the permanent magnet field and produces a torque.

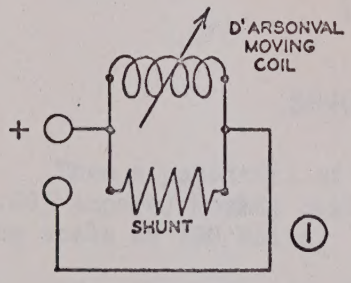
This torque is proportional to the magnet strength, the current in the moving coil and the number and area of the moving coil turns. The torque produced rotates the moving coil until its spiral springs are wound up sufficiently to produce an equal and opposite torque. When this point is reached the pointer deflection will be directly proportional to the current which produced it.

Essentially a D'Arsonval moving coil which in Sensitive Research Instruments, is rectangular in shape has a steel or diamond pivot at each end which turns in spring mounted jewel bearings.

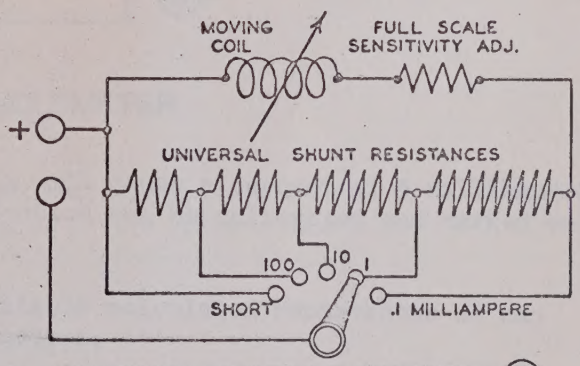
The D.C. current enters and leaves the moving coil usually through spirally constructed phosphor bronze springs which are coiled in opposite directions. These springs also provide the controlling force which opposes the deflecting force created by the current flow through the moving coil turns.

The accuracy of such an assembly to date is superior to any other known type of current deflected mechanism for electrical measuring instruments.

As such a moving coil system will not usually carry over 30 milliamperes without heating errors we shunt any additional current past the moving coil. By calculated and accurately constructed shunts either singly or in a multiple system, we can measure D.C. currents of large magnititude even through the moving coil is only carrying and measuring 30 milliamperes or less. (See circuits below)



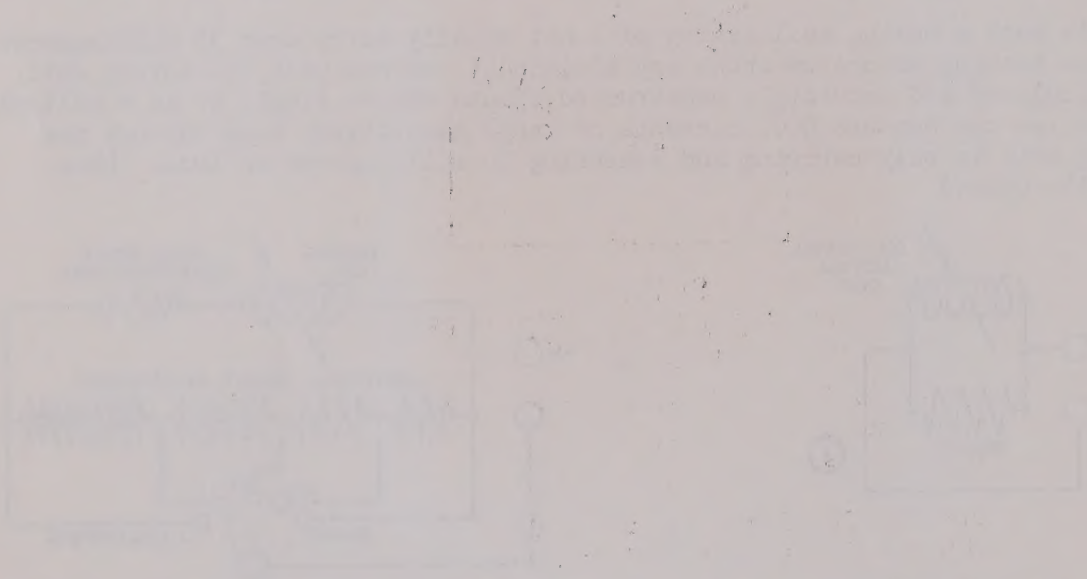

SHUNTED INSTRUMENT




MULTIRANGE D.C. CURRENT ② INSTRUMENT
.1-1-10-100 MILLIAMPERES

SENSITIVE RESEARCH has developed and improved during the past 31 years, the basic D'Arsonval moving coil system so that today we use it even in our 1/20 of 1% LABORATORY STANDARD D.C. Instruments.

A D'Arsonval moving coil system will accurately measure when properly constructed very minute D.C. currents down as low as .01 of one microampere (.00000001) ampere, and indicate this small magnitude of current by a pointer on an indicating scale drawn in divisions-deflection. This extreme high sensitivity is unusual in portable indicating D.C. instruments.



## D.C. VOLTAGE MEASUREMENTS

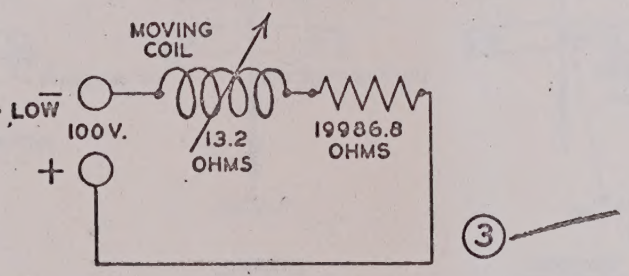
The D'Arsonval moving coil system movement, is a current measuring device but by following a principle of ohms law we can use this current measuring movement to measure D.C. voltage.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Assume we wish to measure 100 volts direct current. Also assume that we have a D'Arsonval movement that deflects full scale for 5 milliamperes with a resistance of 13.2 ohms. By Ohms Law 100 volts across a circuit of 20000 ohms will have a current flow of 5 milliamperes (.005 amperes) by:

$$R = \frac{E}{I} = \frac{100 \text{ Volts}}{.005 \text{ Amperes}} = 20000 \text{ Ohms}$$

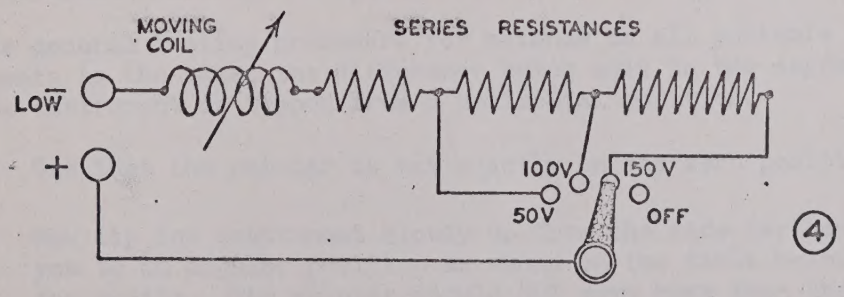
Now if we place our D'Arsonval moving coil (13.2 Ohm), in the circuit in series with 20000 Circuit Ohms-Less 13.2 Moving Coil Ohms-Equals 19986.8 Ohms.




SIMPLE
SINGLE RANGE VOLTMETER
100 VOLTS

Then a potential of 100 D.C. volts will cause a current of 5 milliamperes (.005 Ampere) moving coil pointer deflection can be calibrated and marked on the scale as 100 Volts.

Using the ohms law formula and suitable calculated resistances we can readily construct multirange D.C. Voltmeters.




MULTIRANGE D.C. VOLTMETER
50-100-150 VOLTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Upon receipt, your instrument should be carefully unpacked and examined for any visible external damage, i.e; split case, cracked glass, broken binding posts, etc. Place the instrument on a reasonably level bench. If the instrument has a wire shunting (across) the terminals, it should be removed. With the mechanical zero adjuster thumb knob, move the pointer both above and below the zero line of the scale. It should have sufficient travel to go a little beyond zero in each direction. Set the pointer exactly on zero while lightly tapping the instrument case with your fingers. The pointer will be correctly adjusted for zero when no reflection of the pointer's knife edge can be seen in the anti-parrallax mirror and the pointer is directly over and in line with the scale zero.

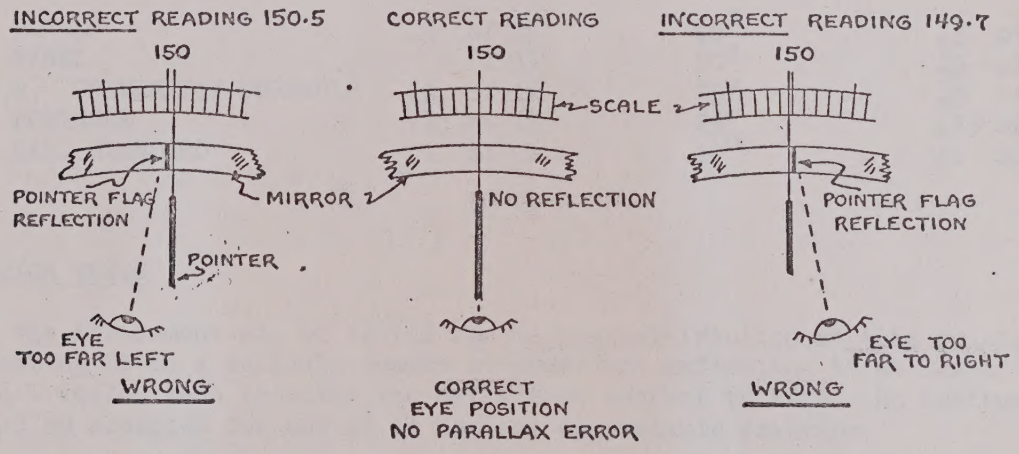



ILLUSTRATION OF THE ANTI-PARALLAX PRINCIPLE

The pointer indication should only be "read" when no reflection of its knife edge can be seen in the mirror below. This is only obtained when the eye is directly over the pointer. The drawings above illustrate the anti-parallax principle.

BALANCE TESTS FOR DIRECT CURRENT INSTRUMENTS

The general testing procedure for balance on all portable and panel instruments is the same, the difference being only in the degree of angle that the instrument is tipped from a horizontal position.

1. See that the pointer is set exactly on its zero position.

2. Now tip the instrument slowly up from the side farthest from you to an angular position as shown on the table below, and tap gently. The pointer should NOT move more than the amount shown on the table below.

3. Next, lay the instrument flat again and then tip it on its side, both left and right, and tap gently.

In both of these procedures, the instrument should be within its balance specifications. In general, these specifications are as follows:

DIRECT CURRENT INSTRUMENTS

| MODEL | ACCURACY | ANGLE FROM HORIZONTAL | BALANCE GUARANTEE |
|---|---|---|---|
| UPP PANEL | .5 of 1% | 90° | .5 of 1% |
| UP PANEL | 1% | 90° | .5 of 1% |
| J,JW,S, UNIVERSITY PORTABLE | .5 of 1% | 25° | .5 of 1% |
| C PORTABLE | .25 of 1% | 25° | .25 of 1% |
| B LAB. STANDARD | .1 of 1% | 10° | .1 of 1% |

FRICTION TESTS

The instrument may be tested for mechanical friction at this point, by connecting it to a suitable source of power and deflecting it at least 25% of full scale, then reducing the deflecting current to zero. No instrument should be accepted for use if it has any appreciable friction.

CALIBRATION CHECK

No actual calibration check should be made until the instrument has become thoroughly temperature saturated at ambient room temperatures for at least four hours. (Allowed to reach room temperature.) SENSITIVE RESEARCH calibrates all instruments at exactly 25° C.

Make sure you are on the right range for your power supply. If in doubt set the range switch if any, on the instrument, on its highest range. This will prevent overloading of the instrument when starting any electrical tests. If only a slight pointer deflection results when power is applied, then successively switch the instrument range selector DOWN until a suitable reading is obtained. Bring the pointer up to full scale and open the instrument circuit. A special precaution should be taken by the user of thermocouple instruments, and that is to AVOID opening the primary circuit of a transformer whose secondary circuit is being measured by thermocouple instruments. The reason for this is that the transformer as an energy storing device, may, under certain conditions, DISCHARGE its energy into the secondary circuit, thereby overloading the thermocouple instrument. (Overloads of 1000% are quite possible in transformer circuits.)

This danger can be eliminated by either disconnecting the instrument from the secondary circuit which can be turned to "zero" so that the excitation of any transformer primary may be reduced to "zero" before switching off.

The pointer should return to its original zero without tapping. If it returns to zero only when tapped, it indicates friction in the movement and possible damage to the pivots and jewels, possible through some severe shock in transit. For portable instruments with an overall accuracy of .5 of 1% or higher, and all high torque panel types, the pointer should return to exactly zero. Ultra high sensitivity instruments in the 1% class, and thermocouple instruments in the .75 of 1% class should have a maximum deviation from zero to no more than .1 of 1% of the physical length of the scale.

The pointer should then be deflected using controlled power slowly up and down the instrument scale. The pointer action should be smooth and there should be no sticking or hesitation at any point on the scale. Do not, however, mistake a rough spot in the controls of your power supply for a "stick" in the movement. Often, a badly regulated power supply or a loose circuit connection may make the instrument appear to have an internal variable. All instrument links and leads should be carefully attached and tightened.

The new instrument should be checked against an accurate standard on the cardinal points of the scale. Just one word of CAUTION. Be careful that you do not place your new instrument and your standard too close together, especially with D.C. instruments. They may react magnetically on each other if your standard instrument is not magnetically shielded, it might indicate incorrect readings. Keep them at least six inches apart. Also, if the instrument was specially ordered for use on a steel panel (such information is printed on all our scales) then test it on a steel panel of the specified thickness.

Of all the things, that may be wrong when you get a new instrument, incorrect calibration is the LEAST likely; and if present at all, it will usually be caused by bad balance which you will already have detected by the test just covered. 99.99% of the instruments you receive, if they are satisfactory for balance, friction, stickiness etc., will also be well within their guaranteed accuracy.

NOTE:

Disassembly of the movement should not be attempted unless a skilled instrument man with calibration and scale drawing equipment are available.

## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

All SENSITIVE RESEARCH instruments are individually assembled by skilled instrument makers and are INDIVIDUALLY calibrated. We do not calibrate instruments "en masse". Extreme care has been used in selecting pivots and shock mounted jewel bearings. In some instruments DIAMOND PIVOTS are used.

The instrument should be used and treated as a precision standard. A reasonable amount of care will bring its reward in a lifetime of accurate service.

Good practice dictates that periodic checks be made for pivot friction, coil, balance, scale calibration, and the mechanical integrity of any instrument.

If the instrument glass is cleaned by any method, the task should be completed by heavily breathing upon the glass so as to dissipate any electrostatic charges that may have been generated by friction. Occasionally the binding posts metal contact surfaces should be cleaned and brightened by the careful use of a fine sandpaper. A yearly coat of wax on any wooden instrument case is suggested.

Instrument panels are cleaned by using carbon tetrochloride to dissolve any greasy surface accumulations. A brisk rubbing with a soft flannel cloth will restore our moulded panels to their original lustre. Should the engraving "white" become discolored it can be removed with a sharp point and refilled with a white wax crayon material obtained from us.

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

1. Place the instrument on a level surface so that the scale is horizontal. Deviations of more than 5° from the horizontal may affect accuracy adversely.

2. For good instrument practice, the instrument should be kept away from any source of very strong magnetic fields. Maximum tolerable field is 5 oersted.

3. Set the pointer on zero by rotating the zero shifter, using thumb or zero screw. The pointer is correctly set on zero when the reflection of the pointer in the antiparallax mirror coincides with the pointer itself and with the zero line. (See general information sheets.) Page 4

4. For safety it is best to turn off the current or voltage to be measured before making connections to any instrument. Observing proper polarity, connect the instrument terminals in series with the circuit if current is to be measured.

   If voltage is to be measured then the voltmeter is to be in parallel to the portion of the circuit desired. It is important to remember that when an ammeter (current measuring instrument) is inserted in series with a circuit, the circuit is changed by the introduction of the ammeter resistance. Ammeters are therefore designed to be of low resistance so that they will only be a small fraction of the total resistance of a circuit.

   Remember also that when a voltmeter is connected across (in parallel) with a portion of a circuit it changes the potential difference by its own effect on the circuit and since it also is connected in parallel with a part of the circuit it reduces the effective resistance of that portion which increases in some degree the total current flowing in the complete circuit.

   Therefore voltmeters are designed to have the highest resistance possible so as not to change materially any circuit to which they may be applied.

5. It is considered good instrument practice in multirange instruments to have the range switch on the highest possible range and then the user can progressively switch down to the range that produces an acceptable reading. A good acceptable reading would be one in which the pointer is indicating in the upper fifth of the scale. (Nearly maximum deflection.) Apply power and observe pointer deflection. When the instrument pointer has come to rest, the current is indicated by the position of the pointer on the scale.

6. After the desired measurements have completed, turn off the current supply and disconnect the instrument terminals from the source of current. If the instrument leads are left connected and circuit changes made damage could result to the instrument being on a range setting lower than the newly applied power value.

SENSITIVE RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS have a data card attached to it or mounted in its case. This data card detailing the accuracy and electrical characteristics together with the instrument panel engraving will readily enable the user to operate our instruments to their full accuracy and their personal satisfaction.

# WARRANTY

THE SINGER COMPANY, METRICS DIVISION, warrants each new instrument to be free from defects in material and workmanship, effective after delivery to the original purchaser as follows:

*Sensitive Research** Electrical Indicating Instruments.....2 years
Other Electrical and Electronic Measuring Instruments.....1 year

Repair or replacement (at our option) without charge (F.O.B. factory) will be effected when our examination satisfactorily indicates that defects are due to workmanship or materials. Electron tubes, semiconductors, batteries, fuses, lamps, thermoelements, and *RatioTran** potentiometers are excluded from warranty coverage. Warranty returns must first be authorized by the factory.

If the instrument or any portion thereof, has been abused, misused, damaged by accident or negligence, or if any serial number or seal has been removed or altered, the warranty is void.

This warranty is in lieu of all other obligations or liabilities expressed or implied and The Singer Company neither assumes, nor authorizes any person to assume for them, any other liability in connection with sales of instruments manufactured by The Singer Company, Metrics Division.

**THE SINGER COMPANY • METRICS DIVISION**
915 PEMBROKE STREET, BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT • 3211 S. LA CIENEGA BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

*A Trademark of THE SINGER COMPANY

## REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Instruments should be returned only on prior written authorization from the Singer Representative or the factory(1). Warranty repair will be made upon written request. Please provide the following information in order to expedite our processing of your instrument:

1. Model or Type
2. Serial Number
3. Description of trouble(2)
4. Test instruments used
5. Approximate date instrument was placed in operation
6. Approximate number of hours of use
7. Has maintenance action been previously requested?
8. Other comments

Upon receipt of this information our Service Department will send you service data or shipping instructions. Upon receipt of shipping instructions forward the instrument to the factory prepaid. If requested, an estimate of charges will be made before work begins.

(1) Contact Metrics Division, Bridgeport, Connecticut for *Empire**, *Panoramic**, and *Sensitive Research** instruments. Contact Metrics Division, Los Angeles, California for *Gertsch** instruments.

(2) Include data on symptoms, measurements taken, suspected location of trouble, maintenance action taken, and any other relevant data.